## THE DENVER POST

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PLOT TO DISRUPT U.S. ELECTIONS

# 13 Russians indicted in probe

By Eric Tucker The Associated Press

washington» In an extraordinary indictment, the U.S. special counsel on Friday accused 13 Russians of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 presidential election, charging them with running a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at

Republican Donald helping Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

federal indictment, brought by special counsel Robert Mueller, represents the most detailed allegations to date of illegal Russian meddling during the campaign that sent Trump to the White House. It also marks the first criminal charges against Russians believed to have secretly worked to influence the outcome.

The Russian organization was funded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, the indictment says. He is a wealthy St. Petersburg businessman with ties to the Russian government and President Vladimir Putin.

Trump quickly claimed vindication Friday, noting in a tweet that the alleged interference efforts began in 2014 — "long before I announced that I would run for President."

"The results of the election were not impacted. The Trump campaign did nothing wrong no collusion!" he tweeted.

But the indictment does not resolve the collusion question at the heart of the continuing Mueller probe, which before Friday had produced charges against four Trump associates. U.S. intelligence agencies have previously said the Russian government interfered to benefit Trump, including by orchestrating the hacking of Democratic emails, and Mueller has been assessing whether the campaign coordinated with the Kremlin.

RUSSIA » 8A

FLORIDA SCHOOL SHOOTING

## FBI failed to act on warning



A young girl and a woman leave a Friday funeral service for Alyssa Alhadeff at the Star of David Funeral Chapel in North Lauderdale, Fla. Alhadeff was one of the victims of the Wednesday shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Brynn Anderson, The Associated Press

By Kelli Kennedy, Curt **Anderson and Tamara Lush** The Associated Press

parkland, fla.» The FBI received a tip last month that the suspect in the Florida school shooting had a "desire to kill" and access to guns and could be plotting an attack, but agents failed to investigate, the agency said Friday. Florida Gov. Rick Scott called for the FBI's director to resign because of the missteps.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the shooting that killed 17 people Wednesday was a "tragic consequence" of the FBI's failure and ordered a review of the Justice Department's processes. He said it's now clear that the nation's pre-

mier law enforcement agency missed warning signs.

In more evidence that there had been signs of trouble with the suspect, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said at a Friday news conference that his office had received more than 20 calls about Nikolas Cruz in the past few years.

A person close to Cruz called the FBI's tip line on Jan. 5 and provided information about Cruz's weapons and his erratic behavior, including his disturbing social media posts. The caller was concerned that Cruz could attack a school.

In a statement, the agency acknowledged that the tip should have been shared with the FBI's Miami office and in-FLORIDA » 17A



Candles that were placed on crosses still glow Friday, a day after a vigil for the victims. Mark Wilson, Getty Images

**Response.** Cory Gardner wants a look at mental health care. Michael Bennet urges better background checks. »2A Shooter. He was on Junior ROTC marksmanship team. »17A

**ELECTRIC CARS** 

### **Vehicles** not yet a state priority

By Brian Eason The Denver Post

Ready or not — the electric vehicle revolution is here.

That's the key takeaway from auto manufacturers, that - propelled in part by governmental pressure across the globe to boost fuel efficiency and cut back on pollution - are now investing heavily in electric drivetrains, with one foreign automaker, Volvo, planning to drop out of the gasoline-powered market entirely as soon as next year. One industry forecast from Bloomberg New Energy Finance found that electric cars could be as cheap as their traditional counterparts by 2025 — and could overtake them in sales by 2038.

So whether Colorado has nearly 1 million electric cars by 2030, as Gov. John Hickenlooper has proposed, or merely a few hundred thousand, electric vehicles are primed to multiply. And that's going to change not only how we use our roads, but also how we pay for them.

So far, though — even as lawmakers have named transportation a top priority for two years running — the issues surrounding electric vehicles haven't yet risen to the forefront of the political debate at the state Capitol.

#### **COMING SUNDAY**

In the midst of an opioid crisis, Colorado's largest drug treatment provider shut down. Its leaders blamed funding, but others saw a different problem. What went wrong at Arapahoe House?

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